

# UNIVERSITY OF THE BAHAMAS CREDIT AND CONTACT HOUR ALIGNMENT

**13<sup>th</sup> February, 2018**

- ▶ University level courses are given a credit hour value. These credit hours are accumulated over a student's period of candidacy and contribute to the number of credits required for a student to be awarded a degree.
- ▶ The credit hour is calculated and based on an academic year which is divided into two equal 15 week semesters falling within the following timeframes – Fall (August-December) and Spring (January-May)

The amount of academic work that happens in a single semester is divided into several different categories:

- ▶ Lecture (taught) or Seminar (discussion) contact hours
- ▶ Laboratory/Studio contact hours
- ▶ Practical (supervised clinical rounds, visual or performing art studio, supervised student teaching, field work, etc.) contact hours
- ▶ Independent Study (thesis or dissertation research) contact hours
- ▶ Internship or Apprenticeship contact hours

For each of these categories a credit value is assigned:

- ▶ 1 Lecture (taught) or Seminar (discussion) contact hour = 1 Credit Hour
- ▶ 2 Laboratory/Studio contact hours = 1 Credit Hour
- ▶ 3-4 Practice (supervised clinical rounds, visual or performing art studio, supervised student teaching, field work, etc.) contact hours = 1 Credit Hour
- ▶ 3-4 Independent Study (thesis or dissertation research) contact hours = 1 Credit Hour
- ▶ Internship or Apprenticeship hours = similar to the Practice Credit Hours

- ▶ Typically courses are given three, four or five credit hours.
- ▶ When courses are approved at the Academic Senate the credit and contact hour distribution is stated for each course.
- ▶ For example:
  - ENGW119 – Writing and Rhetoric I is a three (3) credit hour course. The credit value for this course is 3 lecture contact hours.
  - i.e. 3 lecture contact hours = 3 credit hours

Both the contact and credit hours are equal in this example.

- ▶ PSY 245 – Introduction to Behavioral Statistics is a three (3) credit hour course. The credit hour value for this course is divided into 2 lectures and 2 laboratory contact hours.

ie. 2 lecture contact hours = 2 credit hours

2 laboratory contact hours = 1 credit hour

4 contact hours = 3 credit hours (total credit value)

- ▶ ARCH215 – Architectural Design Studio is a five (5) credit course. The credit value for this course is divided into 2 lectures and 6 studio hours.

2 lecture contact hours = 2 credit hours

6 laboratory contact hours = 3 credit hour

8 contact hours = 5 credit hours (total credit value)

- ▶ Traditionally, universities charge students a fee for each contact hour of instruction whether it is a lecture, laboratory, studio, practice, etc..
- ▶ Additionally, fees are also charged for laboratory and various instructional materials.

- ▶ Currently, at University of The Bahamas students have only been charged for the total credit value as well as laboratory/instructional materials.

### FOR EXAMPLE:

- ▶ ENG119– Writing and Rhetoric I = 3 credit course  
3 lecture contact hours = 3 credit hours

A student's bill is calculated by multiplying the credit value by the per credit cost.

$$3 \times \$100 = \$300$$

All contact hours are accounted for within this student's bill.



## ANOTHER EXAMPLE:

▶ PSY 245 – Introduction to Behavioral Statistics = 3 credit course

2 lecture contact hours = 2 credit hours

2 laboratory contact hours = 1 credit hour

4 contact hours = 3 credit hours (total credit value)

This student's bill is calculated by multiplying the credit value by the per credit cost.

$$3 \times \$100 = \$300$$

One contact hour of instruction is not accounted for within this student's bill.

## ANOTHER EXAMPLE:

- ▶ ARCH215 – Architectural Design Studio is a five (5) credit course. The credit value for this course is divided into 2 lectures and 6 studio hours.

2 lecture contact hours = 2 credit hours

6 laboratory contact hours = 3 credit hours

8 contact hours = 5 credit hours (total credit value)

This student's bill is calculated by multiplying the credit value by the per credit cost.

$$5 \times \$100 = \$500$$

Note that the three contact hours of instruction are **not** accounted for within this student's bill even though this student is receiving a total of 8 contact hours.

- ▶ Despite only charging students for the credit value, all expenses incurred by the University are calculated by contact hours. That is, course instructors are paid if in an overload arrangement or as an adjunct, by contact hour, and not by credit hour.
- ▶ Such an approach is not financially sustainable for the University.
- ▶ A new payment model is needed that brings the University credit and contact hour system in alignment.

## RECALCULATION OF THE SAME EXAMPLE BASED ON CONTACT HOURS

- ▶ ARCH215 – Architectural Design Studio is a five (5) credit course. The credit value for this course is divided into 2 lecture contact and 6 studio contact hours.

2 lecture contact hours = 2 credit hours

6 laboratory contact hours = 3 credit hour (2 studio hours equal 1 credit hour)

8 contact hours = 5 credit hours (total credit value)

This student's bill is therefore calculated by multiplying all contact hours by the per contact cost.

New model calculation:

$$8 \times \$100 = \$800$$

All contact hours are **now accounted for** within this student's bill.

# PER CREDIT/CONTACT COST

| <b>Course Level</b>         | <b>Lecture/Seminar Hour Cost</b> | <b>Laboratory/Discussion Hour Cost</b> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>100/200 level course</b> | <b>\$100 per hour</b>            | <b>\$100 per hour</b>                  |
| <b>300/400 level course</b> | <b>\$150 per hour</b>            | <b>\$150 per hour</b>                  |
| <b>500 level course</b>     | <b>\$200 per hour</b>            | <b>\$200 per hour</b>                  |

This realigned payment structure for undergraduate courses will affect the following programmes and courses, beginning in Fall Semester 2018, with the remaining programmes coming on stream by Spring 2019:

Architecture  
Culinary Arts  
Music  
Art  
Some Science Courses

Thank you!

Questions???

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